UM...

...BIG SISTER?

BIKU (FLINCH)

OH!

WHAT'S GOT YOU AWAKE?

46 >> AYANO'S THEORY OF HAPPINESS II

WHERE'S THE BATHROOM?

KOSO (WHISPER)

IT'S RIGHT OVER THERE.

NOSO (PLOD) NOSO

.....

MARIE'S DESCENDED FROM A MEDUSA?

THAT'S A PRETTY OUT-THERE THEORY, ISN'T IT?

YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE MEDUSA WE CALL "AZAMI" REALLY EXISTED?

OH...!

YOU...

YOU REMEMBER ME TALKING ABOUT HER?

WELL, SHE IS THE WOMAN MY WIFE'S BEEN RESEARCHING DAY IN AND DAY OUT!

I'M ALMOST JEALOUS OF HER.

HA HA HA.

WELL, LOOK...

EVER SINCE SHE MET THE KIDS...

...I CAN'T HELP THINKING THEIR "EYES" AND AZAMI ARE LINKED BY FATE, YOU KNOW?

IT'S JUST THAT...

...I NEVER HAD ENOUGH TO LINK THE MEDUSA MYTH TO ANYTHING IN REALITY.

YEAH ...

...BUT NOW I'VE READ MARIE'S DIARY.

IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANY NUMBER OF THINGS...

...THAT MADE THE KIDS WAKE UP TO THEIR SUPERNATURAL POWERS.

IT ALL SOUNDS PRETTY OCCULT, EITHER WAY.

AND I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT "AZAMI" WAS FLESH AND BLOOD.

IT'S ALL IN THERE.

THAT DIARY ...

I THINK AZAMI WROTE IT HERSELF.

...IT'S LIKE THIS BOOK NEATLY FILLS IN ALL THE CRACKS.

I MEAN, ALL THE WORK I'VE DONE, DELVING INTO AZAMI'S EXISTENCE...

THAT'D BE EVEN MORE OF A SHOCK.

YOU DON'T THINK IT'S JUST FICTION WRITTEN UNDER HER NAME?

SHE DID?

...THAT DIARY...

...IS NOT WRITTEN IN ANY HUMAN LANGUAGE.

BUT WHAT CONVINCED ME WAS MORE BASIC THAN THAT.

WHEN I FINISHED READING IT, I REALIZED ...

THERE'S SO MUCH IN IT THAT ONLY AZAMI COULD KNOW.

THE EXPLANATION FOR THE KIDS' EYES, STUFF I NEVER EVEN NOTICED...

WHY AZAMI CAME TO JAPAN, WHAT SHE DID HERE...DOWN TO THE LAST DETAIL.

ZO (SHUDDER)

...HUH?

AND YET I READ IT FLUENTLY, LIKE NOTHING WAS AMISS.

IT'S NOT A THING I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO.

IT'S COMPLETELY OFF THE WALL.

EVEN IF THE AUTHOR IS SOMEONE BESIDES AZAMI...

...THE CONTENT SEEMS AUTHENTIC TO ME, AND THE MATTER OF THE WRITING SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

I THINK WE CAN TRUST THAT THIS DIARY IS REAL.

OH...

YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?

OH, NO, I'M SURE IT'S TRUE IF YOU SAY SO...

I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT OUR KIDS' SKILLS WERE TRANSMITTED FROM AZAMI'S OWN SEVEN SKILLS.

.....

SO YOU'RE SAYING THIS WAS AN ACTUAL MEDUSA ...

...AND SHE GAVE OUR CHILDREN HER ABILITIES?

BUT...

...IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...

...THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN BRING ANYONE IN ON THIS NOW.

YEAH, THAT'S THE THING.

IF WE ANNOUNCE THIS CRAZY STUFF TO THE WORLD...

...IT WOULD CHANGE EVERY-THING.

THE THING WE MOST NEED TO KNOW RIGHT NOW...

...IS HOW TO GET THOSE SKILLS OUT OF OUR CHILDREN.

ALL THEIR SKILLS ARE FROM A MEDUSA...

...WHO'S RELATED TO MARIE?

I DON'T REALLY GET IT...

SO LOOK...

BUT THE DIARY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING EXPLICITLY ABOUT THAT...

NOTHING ABOUT HOW THEY WERE TRANSMITTED EITHER, REALLY.

IN FACT, I DON'T THINK THE TRANSMISSION WAS PLANNED. I DOUBT EVEN AZAMI PREDICTED IT.

...DO YOU THINK MAYBE WE SHOULD ACCEPT WHAT IS AND JUST LIVE WITH IT?

BECAUSE SOMETHING TELLS ME IT'S NOT REALISTIC...

...TO EXPECT WE CAN JUST WHISK AWAY THEIR SKILLS.

THAT...

...ISN'T GONNA WORK.

KOUSUKE LOSING CONTROL TODAY MADE ME REALIZE AGAIN...

...THE POWERS THESE KIDS HAVE...

...ARE BEYOND ANY-THING HUMAN. THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THEY MIGHT DO.

I MEAN ...

...IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SOMEONE'S LIFE IS PUT IN DANGER.

EVEN IF WE CAN'T RELY ON ANYONE FOR HELP...

...THOSE ARE STILL OUR CHILDREN.

WE HAVE TO DO SOME-THING...

JAA (SPLISH)

BATAN (SLAM)

GACHA (CKCHAK)

OH...

COME ON!

LET'S GO, MARIE!

UH!

MARIE NEEDED TO HIT THE JOHN...

I WAS JUST SHOWING HER THE WAY!

W—

WE'LL GO BACK TO BED NOW.

FURA (STAGGER)

フラ

FURA

フラ

パタン…

PATAN (SHUT)

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THEIR BIG SISTER TOO...

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

"I MEAN... IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SOMEONE'S LIFE IS PUT IN DANGER."

GYU (SQUEEZE)

I HAD NO IDEA THAT THEIR SKILLS...

...WERE SO DANGEROUS.

OOH!

WELL, THE TIME'S FINALLY COME, HUH?

SHE'S IN HIGH SCHOOL NOW.

WHAT'S WITH THAT CREEPY REACTION?

NO, BUT YOU LOOK GREAT, BIG SIS!

YEAH! SO PRETTY!

UM, THANKS ...

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE SUCH A FUSS TO SEE ME OFF LIKE THIS, THOUGH.

OH, DON'T BE STUPID!

WE ALL WANTED TO SEE OUR ONLY BIG SISTER IN HER HIGH-SCHOOL FINEST!

BUT...

BAHH!

...YOU GUYS CAN'T GO, SO...

I MEAN ...

IN FACT, WE ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.

NOT LIKE WE WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL.

YEAH.

GOING TO THAT CROWDED SCHOOL EVERY DAY? WHAT A DRAG.

I WOULDN'T HAVE THE NERVES FOR IT.

MY CONDO-LENCES.

MINE TOO!

GEEZ, IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, I DON'T WANNA GO EITHER!

UGH...

DON'T SCARE ME TOO MUCH. I ALREADY DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.

OH YEAH, YOU DON'T, HUH? EVEN THOUGH YOU GO TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY.

I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY, NO.

KIND OF A RELIEF, IF ANYTHING.

YOU REALLY DON'T. IT'S KINDA WEIRD.

YOU DON'T?

CAN YOU KNOCK IT OFF WITH THAT!?

EVEN AFTER ALL THE TIME THAT PASSED, NOT MUCH CHANGED IN OUR LIVES.

SOMETIMES I'D CONVINCE MYSELF THAT NOTHING WOULD EVER HAPPEN.

BUT WHENEVER I DEALT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

...I REALIZED JUST HOW DIFFERENT ALL THEIR SKILLS MADE THEM.

HNN, I'VE GOT SOMETHING IN MY EYE...

WHERE?

FOR ALL I KNEW ...

... SOMETHING COULD HAPPEN TOMORROW.

THERE WAS NO GUARANTEE THINGS WOULD STAY QUIET.

ガチャ
GACHA (KCHAK)

KYORO (LOOK)
きょろ
KYORO
きょろ

SU (SSK)

...!

"I MEAN... IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SOME-ONE'S LIFE IS PUT IN DANGER."

MOM'S BEEN SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO BANISH THOSE SKILLS EVER SINCE...

GUESS IT MUST BE PRETTY TOUGH.

IF IT'S ONLY PURE LUCK THAT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO HAVE SO MUCH FUN TOGETHER FOR SO LONG...

...WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE ABILITIES, ASAP...!

GYU (CLENCH)

BIKU (TWITCH)

I BORROWED THAT FROM MARIE, SO BE CAREFUL WITH IT, OKAY?

NOTEBOOK: RELATION TO MEDUSA LEGENDS GLOBALLY

BASA (FLAP)

BASA

BASA

DO YOU WANT SOME TEA?

OH...

YOU HEARD ME TALKING THEN, HUH?

.....

I'VE RESEARCHED THE ISSUE, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING YET.

I...

I FEEL KIND OF HELP-LESS.

...SO YOU THINK THEY'RE ALL IN DANGER?

YOU THINK THEY MIGHT... SUDDENLY UP AND DIE, OR SOMETHING?

WELL, AS LONG AS WE'RE ALIVE...

...THERE'S ALWAYS GOING TO BE THAT CHANCE.

BUT IF YOU'RE SICK OR INJURED...

...MANKIND'S BUILT UP AN ARSENAL OF REMEDIES OVER THE COURSE OF HISTORY.

WITH THESE SKILLS, THOUGH, THERE'S NOTHING TO GO ON.

IF SOME-THING DOES HAPPEN ...

...I WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP AT ALL, AND THAT SCARES ME.

I WANT...

...TO HELP ALL OF THEM.

I...

LOOK AT YOU.

ポン PON (PAT)

ポン PON

A FULL "BIG SISTER" NOW, HUH?

ONCE SUMMER BREAK ROLLS AROUND...

...LET'S WORK ON THIS TOGETHER, ALL RIGHT?

7
July

KAGEROU DAZE